GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Forest Department - Allegation of corruption against Sri K. Srikanth, Forest Beat Officer, Wild Life Division, Eluru, W.G. District – Trapped on 15.02.2018 – Sanction of Prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.19 Dated:31.03.2021

ORDER:

WHEREAS, Sri Katuboyina Srikanth worked as Forest Beat Officer, O/o Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru, West Godavari District from 02.06.2016 to 15.02.2018 and by virtue of the post held by him, he falls under the category of Public Servant as defined under clause (c) of section-2 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988(Act 49 of 1988).

2. AND WHEREAS, Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao S/o. Samsonu, is a resident of Dosapadu Village, Denduluru Mandal, West Godavari District and he is living by doing traditional fishing.

3. AND WHEREAS, Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao is eking out his livelihood by doing traditional fishing in the natural ponds (guntas) in and around Dosapadu Village which is located within the limits of Kolleru Wildlife Forest area. There is no ban on traditional fishing in Kolleru Wildlife Forest area. But, the area Forest Beat Officer, Sri Katuboyina Srikanth demanded him to pay bribe of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) for allowing him to do traditional fishing in the natural guntas and for not booking any false case against him. But, Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao expressed his inability to pay such amount. The Forest Beat Officer, Sri Katuboyina Srikanth came to Dosapadu village on 09.02.2018 and threatened Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao that he came to know that he was doing traditional fishing in a gunta and he would give report to his higher ups and also book false cases against him. He also stated that he would take care of all the issues, if the bribe amount is given, otherwise he would book false cases against Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao. Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao requested the Forest Beat Officer, Sri K. Srikanth not to spoil his livelihood. But the Forest Beat Officer, Sri Katuboyina Srikanth turned a deaf ear and demanded him to arrange Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) within four (4) days and further informed to Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao, that if he is unable to pay the demanded bribe in lump-sum to pay in instalments and

to pay Rs.30,000/-(Rupees thirty thousand only), as first instalment. As there was no other go, Sri Meduri Venkatewara Rao reluctantly agreed to meet the demand of Sri K. Srikanth.

4. AND WHEREAS, Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao not willing to pay the bribe, presented a report to the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Eluru Range, Eluru on 15.02.2018 to take necessary action against Sri Katuboyina Srikanth. After following due procedure, the DSP, ACB registered the said report as a case in Cr.No.01/RCT-EWG/2018 on 15.02.2018 under section-7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and made arrangements for laying trap.

5. AND WHEREAS, during trap proceedings on 15.02.2018, Sri Katuboyina Srikanth was trapped when he further demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.30,000/-(Rupees thirty thousand only) from Sri Meduri Venkateswara Rao at the outside of the Vijaya Mess, Pathebada, Main Road, Eluru. During the post trap proceedings, the fingers of the both the hands of Sri Katuboyina Srikanth were subjected to chemical test and they yielded positive result. In pursuance of the information given by Sri K. Srikanth the tainted amount of Rs.30,000/-(Rupees thirty thousand only) was recovered from his left side pant pocket. The serial numbers and denominations of the currency notes found tallied with the serial numbers and denominations of the currency notes handed over by Sri M. Venkateswara Rao during the pre-trap proceedings. The chemical test conducted to the inner lining of the left side pant pocket yielded positive result. The DSP seized samples of the chemicals, resultant solutions, tainted amount, pant of Sri K.Srikanth, beat book, report book and prepared rough sketch of scene of offence.

6. AND WHEREAS, the above said acts of Sri Katuboyina Srikanth formerly worked as Forest Beat Officer in the O/o Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru, West Godavari District constitute offences punishable under sections 7 and sub-section (2) of section 13 read with clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (Act 49 of 1988).

7. AND WHEREAS, the Government of Andhra Pradesh being the competent authority to remove Sri K. Srikanth, formerly worked as Forest Beat Officer in the O/o Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru, West Godavari District from service after fully and carefully examining the material i.e. copies of FIR, Mediators Reports, statements of witness, made up files, explanation of Sri Katuboyina Srikanth and Final Report of Director General, ACB, etc., placed before the Government in respect of the said allegations and the circumstances of the case consider that Sri Katuboyina Srikanth, formerly worked as Forest Beat Officer in the O/o Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife

Management Division, Eluru, West Godavari District should be prosecuted in a Court of Law.

8. NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub section (1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby accord sanction for the prosecution of Sri Katuboyina Srikanth, formerly worked as Forest Beat Officer in the O/o Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Division, Eluru, West Godavari District for the above said offences punishable under sections 7 and sub-section (2) of section 13 read with clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and for any other cognate offences punishable under any other provisions of Law for the time being in force in respect of the aforesaid acts and for taking cognizance of the said offences by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

VIJAY KUMAR G.Srkr
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau,
A.P., Vijayawada.